As to my son, I think, if he cannot keep his place within closs, or stert with his own honor & profit, and / honor of / College, it must be owing to idleness, or a dullness, which will render his education at College ~~worse than~~ useless to him & others; or worse. And therefore ~~would think~~ this is a sufficient reason why he should be taken from College; ~~before any preferment is upon him. Especially rather than to have him put back, & spend another year there.~~ Especially considering his age, and my inability to keep him there more than four years.

P. S. If my son is not so deficient as that there is no hope of his keeping his place in the class ~~he can be in~~, I ~~will~~ take leave to propose he should be upon trial till next examination, ~~or else~~ ~~or if he shall be thought proper~~; and if by his application at this present he shall not make advances as to keep his station, well; but if not, he must leave the college. I make this proposal because I am ready to conclude his deficiency is owing to his indolence, and want of a comfort, ~~per~~ laborious application, rather than to any thing else: And I should hope this would ~~thoroughly~~ arouse him, if any thing can.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Hopkins

MS Ch. A 4.20 p